

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I write to you today to share my comments on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I support the FCC's goals to promote DIVERSITY, LOCALISM, AND COMPETITION in today's media market. I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that studies commissioned by the FCC realistically portray the effects of media deregulation and consolidation on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources (i.e. forms) of media today than ever before, the SPECTRUM OF VIEWS presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. INFORMED CITIZENS are essential to healthy democracy. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding. Please protect the public from the eclipsing of diverse local voices in media; we need to preserve the ability of MANY VIEWPOINTS to be heard in our nation.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a PUBLIC HEARING on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and to actively solicit the widest possible participation from those who will be most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. It is vital that the FCC consider not only the points of view of those with financial interest in this issue, but also of those with social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

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